Rural Development have not issued any instructions to issue Below Poverty Line (BPL) Cards to the Households identified as BPL. However, under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, implemented by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, instructions have been issued to the State Governments and Union Territories to provide distinctive Ration Cards (to be known as "Antyodaya Ration Cards") to the poorest of the poor families, identified for extending benefits.

Instructions have been issued to the State Government/UT Administrations for identification of the beneficiaries under this Scheme and to ensure that the beneficiaries are the poorest of the poor families and are selected in a transparent manner, as the list of beneficiaries is to be approved by the Gram Sabha.

Irregularities in rural projects

4499. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a lot of irregularities have been detected in the implementation of many rural projects across the country;

(b) if so, the details of such irregularities, State-wise;

(c) what stringent measures are being contemplated against such defaulting States; and

(d) what steps are being taken to monitor such rural projects till the completion of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) The irregularities which have come to notice in respect of some of the Rural Development Programmes include misappropriation/diversion of funds for the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) in various States and Union Territories. In regard to the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), irregularities in, *inter-alia*, the selection of beneficiaries were reported in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, alleged involvement of Sarpanches/Panchayat Secretaries in the purchase of construction materials and construction of IAY houses in Punjab and relating to implementation of the Desert Development Programme (DDP) in Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) The Programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development are implemented by the State and Union Territory authorities and the matter immediately taken up with the State Government/U.T. Administration concerned, when complaints are received. Senior Officers of the Ministry are also deputed to enquire into the same. The Ministry have evolved a comprehensive system of monitoring the execution of the Programmes, including utilisation of funds, through periodical Progress Reports received from the State/U.Ts. Field Visits and discussions with State Secretaries and with Project Directors of the District Rural Development Agencies/ Chief Executive Officers of Zila Parishads. Reviews of implementation of various Programmes have been carried out. Concurrent/Quick Evaluations and Impact Assessment Studies are also conducted. A four pronged Strategy comparising (i) Creation of Awareness about the Schemes (ii) Transparency (iii) Peoples' partnership and (iv) Accountability-Social Audit through Gram Sabhas has been introduced to further improve the speed and quality of programme implementation.

Setting up Steering Committee to look into the CII-Accenture study on textiles

4500. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:
SHRI K. B. KRISHNAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Steering Committee to look into points raised by CII-Accenture study on textile;

(b) if so, whether most of the demands of textile industry were met in the budget and some issues remained unaddressed;

(c) if so, what are the issues that this Steering Committee will go into; and

(d) by what time it is likely to submit their recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (d) Government has set up a Steering Group on Investment and Growth in Textile Industry under